

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of conducting transactions, comprising:
a first entity providing a first type of service to a second entity, the first entity being able to accept fees for the first type of service but under an obligation not to accept fees for providing a first benefit to the second entity and/or making a referral to a third entity that provides the first benefit to the second entity;
the third entity performing the first benefit for the second entity, the third entity being able to accept fees from the second entity for providing the first benefit; and
the third entity compensating the first entity for the first type of service the first entity provides to the second entity from fees the third entity charges the second entity for providing the first benefit.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first benefit comprises a second type of service performed by the third entity for the second entity.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the first entity comprises an attorney, the second entity comprises a client, and the first type of service comprises legal services.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the obligation not to accept fees for providing the first benefit and/or making a referral to a third entity that provides the first benefit comprises an ethical rule, license requirement or statute governing the conduct of attorneys.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the third entity comprises an asset manager, the second type of service comprises managing assets owned by the first entity, and the legal services comprise counseling the client regarding the assets managed by the asset manager.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the legal services comprise a wealth or estate planning service.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type of service comprises an accounting service, the first entity comprises a licensed accountant, and the obligation not to accept fees for providing a first benefit to the second entity comprises an ethical rule, license requirement or statute governing the conduct of accountants.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein the accounting service comprises asset managing services.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type of service comprises an investment advisor service, the first entity comprises a licensed investment advisor, and the obligation not to accept fees for providing a first benefit to the second entity comprises an ethical rule, license requirement or statute governing the conduct of investment advisors.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein the investment advisor service comprises asset managing services.

11. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises an asset management service managing assets owned by the third entity.

12. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises a banking service managing an account for the third entity.

13. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises a securities brokerage service for investments owned by the third entity.

14. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service includes management of a fiduciary instrument and the third entity is a fiduciary or agent of the fiduciary and the second entity is the grantor or beneficiary of the fiduciary instrument.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the fiduciary instrument comprises a trust.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein the fiduciary instrument comprises a conservatorship.

17. The method of claim 14 wherein the fiduciary instrument comprises an executorship.

18. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises insurance brokering services for an insurance policy involving the second entity.

19. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises a real estate brokering service for real estate owned by the second entity.

20. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises a personal property brokering service for personal property owned by the second entity.

21. The method of claim 2 wherein the second type of service comprises a property management service for a lease on real or personal property owned by the second entity.

22. The method of claim 1 wherein the obligation not to accept fees for providing a first benefit to the second entity and/or making a referral to a third entity that provides the first benefit to the second entity comprises an obligation not to accept fees for providing the first benefit to the second entity.

23. The method of claim 1 wherein the obligation not to accept fees for providing a first benefit to the second entity and/or making a referral to a third entity that provides the first benefit to the second entity comprises an obligation not to accept fees for making a referral to the third entity.

24. The method of claim 1 wherein the first type of service is provided to the second entity on a periodic basis and the first entity is compensated on a periodic basis over a period of time that the benefit is being provided by the third entity.

25. The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is compensated as a proportion of the value of the benefit provided to the second entity by the third entity.

26. The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is compensated from fees charged by the third entity for providing the benefit over a period of time.

27. The method of claim 1 wherein the first entity is selected by the second entity, and the method further comprises the third entity referring the first entity to the second entity.

28. The method of claim 1, further comprising the third entity providing a membership affiliation with a plurality of first entity members, each first entity member referring at least one of the second entities to the third entity.

29. The method of claim 28 wherein the membership affiliation comprises an agreement between the first entity and the third entity, the agreement providing that the first entity is required to provide a defined amount of the first type of services for the second entity over a defined period of time.

30. The method of claim 28, further comprising the third entity providing an affiliated first entity member with instructional materials regarding the benefit provided by the third entity.

31. The method of claim 28 further comprising the third entity providing an affiliated first entity with instructional materials regarding the first type of services provided by the first entity.

32. The method of claim 28, further comprising the third entity providing the first entity member with secure access to an account that includes periodically updated information concerning the benefit provided by the third entity to each second entity that the first entity refers to the third entity.

33. The method of claim 28, further comprising the third referring prospective second entities seeking the first type of service to affiliated first entities.

34. The method of claim 28 wherein the membership affiliation is provided over a computer network.

35. The method of claim 32 wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

36. The method of claim 28 wherein the affiliation of each first entity member is conditioned on there being at least one second entity to which the first entity has provided or will provide the first type of service with respect to the benefit provided by the third entity, the benefit provided by the third entity being conditioned on the second entity receiving the first type of services from the first entity.

37. A method of providing legal services to a client, comprising enlisting at least one attorney to provide the legal services to the client, the attorney being under an obligation not to accept fees for referring the client to an asset management entity;

referring the client to the asset management entity, the asset management entity charging a fee to the client for managing the asset, and

the asset management entity compensating the attorney for the legal services provided to the client by paying the attorney a portion of the fees the asset management entity charges the client for managing the asset.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein the legal services comprise estate planning services.

39. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides a banking service for managing a financial investment owned by the client.

40. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides a securities brokerage service for securities investment owned by the client.

41. The method of claim 37 wherein the provides a banking service for an account owned by the client and managed by the banking service.

42. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity manages a fiduciary instrument as a fiduciary or agent of a fiduciary and the client is a grantor or beneficiary of the fiduciary instrument.

43. The method of claim 42 wherein the fiduciary instrument comprises a trust instrument.

44. The method of claim 42 wherein the fiduciary instrument comprises a conservatorship instrument.

45. The method of claim 42 wherein the fiduciary instrument comprises an executorship.

46. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides insurance services for an insurance policy involving the client.

47. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides a real estate management service for real estate owned by the client.

48. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides personal property management services for personal property owned by the client.

49. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides property management service for real or personal property owned by the client.

50. The method of claim 37 wherein the compensation paid to the attorney includes compensation for legal services provided to the client prior to referring the client to the asset management entity.

51. The method of claim 37 wherein the legal services are provided to the client on a periodic basis and the attorney is compensated on a periodic basis over a period of time that the asset is managed by the asset management entity.

52. The method of claim 37 wherein the attorney is compensated by the asset management entity in proportion to the value of the asset being managed by the asset management entity.

53. The method of claim 37 wherein the attorney is compensated from fees charged by the asset management entity for managing the asset over a period of time.

54. The method of claim 37 wherein the attorney is selected by the client, and the asset management entity is referred to the client by the attorney.

55. The method of claim 37 wherein the asset management entity provides a membership affiliation with a plurality of member attorneys, each member attorney referring the services of the asset management entity to at least one client.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein the membership affiliation includes an agreement between the attorney and the asset management entity, the agreement providing that the attorney is required to provide a defined amount of legal services to the client over a defined period of time.

57. The method of claim 55, further comprising the asset management entity providing the affiliated member attorneys with instructional materials regarding the services available from the asset management entity.

58. The method of claim 55, further comprising the asset management entity providing the affiliated member attorneys with instructional materials regarding the legal services provided being provided to the client.

59. The method of claim 55, further comprising the asset management entity providing the affiliated member attorneys with secure access to an account that includes periodically updated information concerning the asset managed by the asset management entity to each client that the attorney refers to the asset management entity.

60. The method of claim 55, further comprising the asset management entity referring prospective clients to a member attorney to provide legal services regarding the asset managed by the asset managing entity.

61. The method of claim 55 wherein the membership affiliation is provided over a computer network.

62. The method of claim 61 wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

63. The method of claim 55 wherein the affiliation of each attorney member is conditioned on there being at least one client of the member attorney member with an asset being managed by the asset management entity, and wherein management of the asset by the asset management entity is conditioned on the client receiving legal services by an affiliated member attorney.

64. The method of claim 63, further comprising transferring the asset of the client under management by the asset management entity to another entity selected by the client if the client ceases to receive legal services from the member attorney or the member attorney ceases to be affiliated with the asset management entity.

65. A third-party compensation method for providing legal services to a client, comprising;

establishing a relationship between an attorney and the client to provide legal services to the client concerning management of an asset owned by the client;

the attorney referring the client to an asset management entity to manage the asset of the client, the attorney being under an obligation to not accept fees for referring the client to the asset management entity;

establishing a relationship between the client and the asset management entity, and, pursuant to the relationship, the asset management entity managing the asset owned by the client and charging a fee to the client for managing the asset;

establishing a relationship between the attorney and the asset management entity; and

pursuant to the relationship between the attorney and the asset management entity, the asset management entity compensating the attorney for legal services provided to the client regarding the asset being managed by the asset management entity, the compensation being provided from the fees the asset management entity charges the client for the management of the asset.

66. A third-party compensation method for providing legal services to clients, comprising:

providing a network of member attorneys affiliated with an asset management entity;

the member attorneys providing legal services to clients regarding respective assets owned by the clients;

the member attorneys referring clients to the affiliated asset management entity, the member attorneys being under an obligation to not accept fees for referring the clients to the affiliated asset management entity;

the asset managing entity managing the respective assets of the clients, the asset management entity charging the clients fees for managing the assets; and

the asset management entity compensating each member attorney for the legal services provided by each member attorney to each of the member attorney's clients having an asset managed by the asset management entity.

67. A third-party compensation method for providing legal fees to an attorney comprising:

establishing a first relationship between a client and the attorney, the attorney providing legal advice to the client concerning the clients wealth and being under an obligation to not accept fees for referring the client to a wealth management entity;

establishing a second relationship between the client and a wealth management entity, the wealth management entity charging a fee to the client to manage the wealth of the client; and

establishing a third relationship between the wealth management entity and the attorney, the attorney referring the client to the wealth management entity and the wealth management entity compensating the attorney for legal services provided to the client.

68. A system for doing business comprising:

a first document establishing a first relationship between a client and an attorney, the first document specifying that the attorney will provide legal services to the client;

a second document establishing a second relationship between the client and an asset management entity, the second document providing for the asset management entity managing an asset of the client and charging a fee to the client for managing the asset of the client; and

a third document establishing a third relationship between the asset management entity and the attorney, at least one of the first, second and third documents specifying that the asset management entity will compensate the attorney for the legal services provided to the client by the attorney pursuant to the first document from the fee charged to the client pursuant to the second document.

69. The system of claim 68, wherein the third document provides for the referral by the attorney of clients to a asset management entity.

70. A system for doing business comprising computer communications media configured to communicate:

information establishing a first relationship between a client and an attorney, the information specifying that the attorney will provide legal services to the client;

information establishing a second relationship between the client and an asset management entity, the second relationship including the asset management entity charging a fee to the client to manage the assets of the client; and

information establishing a third relationship between the asset entity and the attorney, the third relationship including the asset management entity compensating the attorney for providing legal services to the client pursuant to the first relationship.

71. The system of claim 70 wherein the third relationship further includes the attorney referring clients to the asset management entity.

72. The system of claim 70 wherein the computer communications media is further configured to provide information identifying a set of member attorneys having established the third relationship with asset management entity and information identifying a corresponding set of clients having established the second relationship with the asset management entity.

73. The system of claim 70 wherein the computer communications media is further configured to provide secure account information regarding an asset being managed by the asset management entity for the client, the secure account information being accessible to the client, the asset management entity and the attorney providing legal services for the client.

74. The system of claim 70 wherein the computer communications media configured is further configured to provide information to the client and to the attorney concerning services offered by the asset management entity for managing the asset of the client.

75. The system of claim 70 wherein the computer communications media is further configured to provide selected information to the attorney, the selected information including instructional materials to aid the attorney in providing legal services for the client.

76. The system of claim 70 wherein the computer communications media transmits information over a computer network.

77. The system of claim 76 wherein the computer network comprises the Internet.

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